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International Court of Justice

13 pages

H0941-0002

OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF TESTIMONY FOR THE DEFENSE OF ORGANIZATIONS, TAKEN BEFORE A COMMISSION APPOINTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 4 OF THE ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL DATED13 MARCH 1946.

13 June 1946

COMMISSIONER:

George R. Taylor

WAFFEN-SS

(The Commission convened at 1400 hours.)

KARL ULLRICH, a witness, took the stand and testified as follows:

BY MR. TAYLOR:

Q What is your name?

A Karl Ullrich.

Q Will you raise your right hand and repeat after me the following oath: I swear by God, the Almighty and Omniscient, that I will speak the pure truth and will withhold and add nothing.

(The witness repeated the oath.)

By- MR. TAYLOR: You may sit down.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

DR. KOESSL: The witness, Karl Ullrich, can make statements concerning the front units of the Waffen-SS, that they fought within the Army and that they received the same orders as the units of the Army. Due to his long front duty with different groups of the Waffen-SS in posts from company commander to division commander, he is a very good witness to prove that the Waffen-SS did not use any criminal combat methods and that they regarded the general rights and principles of war. He also can state that the front line troops did not know of the extermination of lives.

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M. MONNERY: I think it would be advisable if defense counsel, in indicating the matters to be dealt with by the testimony of the witness, would not give to the witness the points which he would like to have confirmed by the witness but only give the general shape and general frame of the testimony and interrogation.

DR. KOESSL: Maybe I understood the orders of the Court wrong. We are requested to tell the Court before we start what we will ask the witness.

By MR. TAYLOR: The Court's order is that the Counsel prepare and announce to the Court what he intends to prove by the witness but not the material facts or the substance of what he wants the witness to testify to, that is true, but since it has been ~~admitted here~~ stated there is nothing we can do about it now, so we will proceed with the examination of the witness.

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY DR. KOESSL:

Q Witness, when did you enter the Reserve Troops and with what units did you serve until the beginning of the war?

A On the 8th of January 1934 I entered the Reserve Troops after previously having visited the SS Junkerschool at Braunschweig and I served from then on in the Engineer Troops of the SS as platoon and company commander.

Q Under whom was your unit during the occupation of Austria, the Sudetenland and Prague?

A My battalion was in all three campaigns, under the Army.

Q Did you bring a lot of loot, (captured material) home from these campaigns?

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A We did not bring any captured equipment or loot home. That was especially controlled at the Border Control where every single one of our vehicles was checked for non-military items.

Q With what unit and with what rank did you ~~xxxxxxxxx~~ come to the front?

A I entered the Polish campaign with the reserve toops of an engineer battalion, as company commander.

Q Did a reserve group of the engineer troops stay at home?

A No, only a small group remained at our Caserne or billets.

Q Did you have no reserve troops with your own troops?

A The replacement was only activated during the war.

Q What campaigns did you participate in?

A In 1939 I was in the Polish Campaign; 1940 the French Campaign; 1941 the Yugoslav Campaign; 1941-42 in the Russian Campaign; 1942 in the Occupation of Southern France, and from then on until the end in the Eastern Campaign.

Q Could you explain this list a little better, in order to show the Court whether or not you had been active on many fronts?

A I have here with me my "Soldbuch" (Pay) Book in which is an affidavit which states all the battles and campaigns I participated in.

DR. KOESSL: I do not know whether the Court is interested in seeing this. All I want to state is that the witness has a very good background concerning his service in the SS.

Bg - MR. TAYLOR: Since I presume it is merely to identify the witness I see no objection to the introduction or non-introduction in the record.

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Q What was your duty at the end of the war.

A At the end of the war I was commander of the SS Armored Division Vicking.

Q Did the Waffen-SS in these campaigns fight as a single unit or in what relation was it to the Army?

A From 1939 until the capitulation we were never used as an individual or independent unit but always were under the Army.

Q Did you have knowledge of any special orders from the SS to you or to your superiors in the Waffen-SS, orders which were different from those of the army, concerning different methods of fighting and also different treatment of civilians or captured enemy men?

A The Waffen-SS was part of the German Ground Forces and were under the orders of the Army, as was every other army unit. Therefore the treatment of all prisoners, wounded, and civilians, was the same as it was throughout the German Army.

Q Was there no difference between the fighting methods of the Waffen-SS and of the Army?

A There was no difference. In the SS was the Elite and the SS consisted mainly of volunteers, men who volunteered to participate in this fight in an important position.

Q Could you tell us why many supposed there were different methods of fighting used by the Waffen-SS?

A As I stated before, these men in the Waffen-SS were largely volunteers and men that streamed into the Waffen-SS the beginning of the war. Also when we entered combat, the officers and non-commissioned officers who had been together in peacetime entered combat together. For a time the Waffen-SS was not enlarged and we therefore were a closed unit - a closed group

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and a cooperative group. Every member of the Waffen-SS believed in the necessity of this war which we all thought was forced upon us. Therefore all members of the Waffen-SS saw in this job the fulfillment of their duty even though we knew quite often that our own lives had to be given.

Q Could it be that this fighting spirit of the SS could have been the cause of mistreatment or different treatment of civilians or enemy prisoners of war?

A I know of no such cases. All prisoners and enemy wounded that fell into our hands were treated as human beings, according to the laws of the Geneva Convention which were known generally.

Q Do you mean to say that no mistreatments whatsoever took place?

A I don't want to say that. No, I want to say that due to the long war and the hardships, some mistreatments or not correct treatment might have occurred. But whenever such a thing became known, these cases were taken care of by a General Court Martial.

Q Do you know of any orders against humanitarianism and do you know of any incidents?

A I do not know of any such incidents against human decency and against human rights but I would suppose that such things did happen at times during this long war. However, whenever these cases became known they were dealt with by Courts Martial.

Q Did you hand over any prisoners of war to the SD?

A No. The prisoners were first delivered to Ic, that is our interrogation units with the division, and after that they were sent depending upon orders from the army headquarters, to the collection points in the rear by our military police.

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Q Did you of the Waffen-SS cooperate or work together with the SD?

A In the organizations I worked in, as well as in my own divisions, I never heard or saw of any cooperation or work with the SD.

Q Do you know of the so-called Commissioner Order.

A Yes, the Commissioner Order became known to us shortly before the start of the Eastern Campaign but it practically was never carried out. When we received our prisoners they usually had no rank designation whatsoever and it was impossible to judge a commissioner from the other prisoners. Also we thought it was impossible to give troops the right to shoot certain prisoners of war without any trial or without any interrogation whatsoever. We thought it to be against human rights and also against all disciplinary ideas of the army.

Q How was the relation of the troops, that is the battle troops, with the civilian population as far as such a relation existed?

A The population usually got scared when they heard the name SS but they changed very fast since most of our men were decent fellows and they became known to the population rather fast.

Q Why do you think the population got scared when they heard the term SS?

A As far as I know I would say a huge scare campaign or propaganda was directed against us and we of the Waffen-SS did not see the point in it. We were not acting as this campaign pictured us acting.

Q You mean to say that the name of the Waffen-SS was made a fearful object by enemy propaganda?

A Yes. We found out from prisoners that their officers had told them that there was no pardon with the Waffen-SS. We did not have any orders like that and that was purely enemy propaganda.

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Q Did the Waffen-SS without any reason destroy villages or kill civilian population?

A Without war necessity no destructions were made and no civilians were wounded or killed. In fights for villages, of course, part of them were destroyed at times and civilians, that is the population, were hurt and killed. However, whenever possible we tried to clear these villages if they were within the battle area and transport the civilians to the rear.

Q Was this civilian population taken to Germany as slave labor or how far did you take these civilians back?

A The civilians were only transported out of the immediate area of fighting, that is between 3 and 15 kilometers.

Q Were you used with troops to fight partisans?

A The divisions and corps which I participated in or was a member of never were used for anti-Partisan warfare.

Q Did you come in any connection with partisans?

A There were no partisans on the front and whenever we were for a short while behind the lines then no partisans were apt to fight us since we were in a massed formation.

Q Did no single attacks happen either?

A The only attacks on us were those upon our replacement units coming up from the rear and I personally came into closer touch during a retreat of 1944 with a single case - one of our battalion officers and his staff were attacked - but that was only a single case.

Q Had you heard that anti-partisan activity of the army was only a camouflage against the destruction of certain parts of the population?

A As far as we of the front line units knew of some of these anti-partisan activities of battles in the rear we always considered a military

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necessity. In the year 1943 I believe it was, I personally met at the Field Headquarters of the Reichs Fuehrer, the Chief of the anti-partisan troops and there I was shown on a huge map of Europe what large areas were being eliminated by partisan troops and how Security Divisions and Guard Units such as Police Regiments were used in those areas for protection.

Q What were you told in that office or in that section concerning the anti-partisan battle?

A I was told that the battle was necessary in order to keep the replacement road open to keep replacements coming.

Q How come you came to this office even though you didn't have anything to do with the anti-partisan battle?

A I was on a furlough and I only visited this headquarters because I wanted to visit an old friend from peacetime who was chief of Section 1A in this anti-partisan headquarters.

Q You also were for a while in an armored division Todtenkopf, or Death Head?

A Yes.

Q Did you ever see any duty in a concentration camp or did you ever visit one?

A I was transferred to the Totenkopf or Death Head Division in 1941 after the Yugo Slav Campaign and at that time the Division had nothing to do any more with concentration camps. I personally never did visit an concentration camp.

Q Did you personally never come into any connection with concentration camp inmates? Did you never see anything of them?

A I saw inmates in 1935 and 1936 and 1942. In 1935-1936 near Dachau which worked outside of the camp and in 1942 in Bavarian Alps during a furlough.

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Q Did you not ask these inmates concerning their life - concerning their activities?

A I attempted to ask an inmate in 1942 why he was in a concentration camp but he just told me he wasn't allowed to give me any information.

Q Did you as an SS Leader not have the power to give him an order, or at least to give one of the guards the order that he should answer you?

A They were guard units with whom we did not have any connection, we of the front line units. I also asked the leader of this guard unit and he too refused to give me any answer.

Q Were you in uniform at the time when you asked him, with all your decorations and so on?

A Yes I was in the uniform of a Sturmbannfuehrer, wearing the Ritterkreuz.

Q Did you never hear anything of the extermination camps, especially the murder of Jews in these extermination camps?

A We did not hear or know anything of extermination camps and extermination of Jews. We were out on the front all the time and our leaders and our men did not have any information.

Q Did not any SS men connected with guard units of these concentration and extermination camps tell you of any of the things that were happening at the home front?

A The men that came to us as replacements came to us as men and we did not ask them about their past experiences and what they had seen. We were not too interested in what was going on back there.

Q What did you hear during the war of the so-called Einsatzkommandos or command groups of the SD and the Security Police?

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A Of course we knew and we heard that there were police and security units away in the rear. That of course we knew was a necessity. What they actually did we did not know and we did not have any information concerning them.

Q The Prosecution presented a document showing that also units or men of the Waffen-SS were used in such an Einsatzkommando or Special Task Force. Did you, even as Division Commander, not hear of anything concerning these transfers or use of men?

A Firstly, no men were ever transferred out of those units where I served for such a reason and secondly I never heard of any such thing.

Q Did you meet Himmler or get together with Himmler at all during the war?

A Yes. I got together with Himmler in the winter of 1941. In 1942 Himmler visited our Death Head Division. In 1942 I visited his Field Headquarters; in 1943 he came to us in Karkhov and in July of 1944 I once again visited him in his Field Headquarters.

Q Did Himmler during his visit of the Division or during your visit to him, give you any orders, that is battle orders?

A No. He could not give us any battle orders since we were a part of the Army and received their orders.

Q Did Himmler have no order power at all?

A Yes, in personal relations.

Q What was the reason of your visit to Himmler?

A In 1941-1942, that is in the winter, and in 1943, Himmler only visited us for his own personal orientation. In 1942 I went over to Himmler's field headquarters on my way to a furlough since it was much easier to go through this field headquarters and in July 1944 I was

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received by Hitler personally for the presentation of the Eichenlaub to the Ritterkreuz.

Q Were you, in other words, during the entire war in front units without any interruption?

A With the exception of furloughs I was with front divisions and corps of the Waffen-SS.

DR. KOESSL: I have no further questions.

CROSS-EXAMINATION

BY MAJOR MURRAY:

Q What is your age, please?

A I am 35. I will become 36 the 1st of December.

Q You became a member of the SS in January of 1934, is that right?

A Yes, I became a member of the Reserve Troops.

Q What do you mean by the Reserve Troops?

A The name of it at the time, the name of the unit I entered, was 1st Battalion, Political Readiness Unit, Munich.

Q Were you a member of the Nazi Party?

A Yes.

Q. When did you join the Nazi Party?

A In 1931.

Q You of course joined both the Nazi Party and the SS voluntarily, did you not?

A Yes.

Q In your experience when did you actually become a member of the Waffen-SS?

A I don't know when the name Waffen-SS was first used.

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Q In your experience in the Waffen-SS I think you told us that practically everyone in it had volunteered?

A Before the war, yes.

Q Even during the war and up to the end, practically all the members of the Waffen-SS, hadn't they volunteered for this Elite organization?

A I know that since 1943 drafted men were entered in the SS.

Q The number of drafted men was very small was it not?

A I never had anything to do with this reinforcement question. Whether these men were volunteers or drafted we didn't care, as long as they came.

Q In any event those men who served with you and under you in the Waffen-SS did so willingly and were not attempting to transfer out of the Waffen-SS were they?

A There were deserters that did not want to serve with us.

Q But you didn't have many deserters in the Waffen-SS did you?

A No.

Q So that everyone who served with you, except a few deserters, were doing so voluntarily and willingly, were they not?

A The war duty was a necessity for Germany. Whether they wanted to or not they had to stay.

Q Will you answer my question - I think you can answer it yes or no.

A May I request that the question be repeated.

Q So that everyone who served with you, except a few deserters, were doing so voluntarily and willingly, were they not?

A I cannot answer that question.

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Q You have told us that you are an old time member of the Waffen-SS and you are telling the Commission that you know all about it and yet you tell me you can't answer that question?

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A During the war I did not find out the answer to that question. That was outside my information.

Q There were a lot of things you did not find out during the war, weren't there?

A That is what I needed, to fight, and I found out.

Q You told us that all the SS men considered that the war was absolutely necessary. Did I understand you correctly?

A Yes.

Q And from what day had all the SS men considered that this war was absolutely necessary?

A Since the beginning of the war.

Q By that do you mean since September 1939?

A Yes.

Q You had been active in the SS from 1934 on. Had it been part of your duties to educate members of the SS in the political philosophy that the war was absolutely necessary?

A No.

Q Actually that was done in the SS was it not, if not by you by someone else?

A We were taught that we had to be strong in order not to be attacked.

Q Why was it you considered the attack on Poland absolutely necessary?

A We hoped until that date that we went over the border that that war could be prevented even though according to our newspapers and reports we received that Germans by the Poles were being manhandled and murdered.

Q Why did you consider the attack on Czechoslovakia absolutely necessary?

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A The occupation of Czechoslovakia in our opinion was an occupation which had been decreed upon by the chiefs of the States of Czechoslovakia and Germany.

Q I shall pass into another subject. You told us I believe that when the SS arrived in any particular locality that the population were very much afraid, is that right?

A Yes.

Q And that was because of the reputation ofthe SS as a terror organization, wasn't it?

A We never terrorized. I always say that it was the propaganda that described us as bad even though we were not.

Q I do not mean to say that the SS ever terrorized. I merely asked you if that was not the reputation that the SS had, perhaps due to the propaganda,but nevertheless they had that reputation?

DR. KOESSL: May I object. By this means of questioning it seems to me that the prosecution only wants an opinion ofthe witness. That could be found out actually by what the witness said already.

MR TAYLOR: I think the question is proper if the witness is able to answer from his own knowledge and information he has had. He has testified that the people were scared in the community in which they moved in,and after they were there awhile they would change their mind . I believe that is in the record on direct examination ofthe witness.

~~BY~~ Will you please read the last question (Whereupon the last question was read to the witnss).

A Yes.

Q The SS also had a reputation as being the terror organization within

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Germany itself, d id it not?

A I can not answer that.

Q Do you know, Witness, that the SS was largely responsible for the Roehm Purge in 1934?

A At the time of the Roehm Purge I was a member of the political disposition squad, and the entire battalion was on furlough at the time. We always returned to ~~Minish~~ MUNICH as a unit, and arrived in ~~Minish~~ MUNICH on the 1st of July when the entire thing was over, so I personally had nothing to do with the Roehm Putsch.

Q I do not intend to indicate that you had anything to do with it. I merely asked you if you did not know it was carried out by the SS?

A I can not answer that question.

Q You were very close to Himmler, were you not. You met him a number of times?

A Yes.

Q Are you familiar with the Himmler book "The SS as an anti-Bolshevist Fighting Organization," and published in 1936?

A I do remember the title, and I am almost certain I read it, but I do not say, if I might suggest, today that I remember what it was all about.

Q The reason I asked that, Himmler in 1936 was able to answer the last two questions which you have been unable to answer. In order to refresh your recollection I would like to read on page 29 of the book Himmler's statement. I am quoting this: " I know that there are many people in Germany who become sick whenever they see these black coats. We understand the reason for this and do not expect we shall be loved by the many." Does not that sound as if Himmler at least thought that the SS had the reputation throughout Germany as being a terror organization in 1936?

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Q Very well. When you met Himmler in 1943, was that at Karkov?

A I personally did not see him in 1943 at his headquarters.

Q Did you attend, or did you hear about the contents of a speech made by your friend Himmler?

Q What speech of Himmler's?

Q Just a minute. I shall give you the date. At Karkov in April 1943?

A I at that time personally was at the front with my battalion, and I only saw Himmler when he visited the Regiment OP, and for that reason was ordered back to the Regiment OP, and only said "Hello" to him.

Q You said that this bad reputation of the SS in Eastern territories was due to enemy propanga, is that correct? Did you consider at that time, or do you now consider Himmler an enemy propagandist?

A No.

Q Let me read you what Himmler said on this subject in that speech I quote: "We have only one task to stand firm and carry on the racial struggle without mercy." Then several lines: "I will now say again something which I have already today said to men elsewhere. We will never let the excellent record of dread and terrible reputation which preceded us in battles for Krakov fade, but will constantly add a new meaning to it. They can call us what they like in the world, the main thing is that we are the eternally loyal, obedient, steadfast and unconquerable fighting men of the Germanic people and of the Fuehrer, the SS of the Germanic Reich." For the record that is document No. 1919-PS, and the basis of those two statements of your friend Himmler. Would you say that the reputation of SS both in Germany and in occupied territories as being a terror organization was completely justified?

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A No. I think this phraseology already stated and we take the meaning that we went out to do our duty to win this war,and I can not see what connection it couldhave, or couldbe with criminal activities. May I ask a question?

Q No, I am asking the questions. When Himmer said,"The dread and terrible reputation which precedes us in battles," does that sound like anything to do with terror organization?

A That might sound like it.

Q It does sound like it, doesn't it?

A Yes.

Q You told us that the SS was an "elite" organization. What do you mean by that?

A First of all I mean by that by saying that the SS was organized in the beginning with men who had to meet a certain physical classification, and that also they were both in ideals and their wishes good Germans.

Q Did you need an elite organization to guard the concentration camps?

A My unites and the reserve units would never guard any concentration camps.

Q I am asking you if you needed an elite organization to guard concentration camps?

A Yes.

Q And did you need an elite organization to run the murder factories of Auschwitz and other concentration camps?

A No, no elite needed there for that.

Q There were SS men who performed the tasks, were there not?

A I read concerning this in the papers now.

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Q You told usthat you knew of the Einsatz Commado troops, when did you first hear of these?

A I heard of the SD and the Police,but of the Einsatz commandoes of which the States Attorney is speaking, I never heard of them during the war.

The Commission will
BY - MR TAYLOR: Recess for ten minutes.-
The Commission a(recess) was taken at 1530 hours
reconvened at 1540 hours.

BY MAJOR MURRAY:

Q Before the recess, I asked you about the Einsatz groups. As I remember it you said that you had not heard of them, is that correct?

A No.

Q You were in the territory of Poland and Russia,and the East, off and on from 1941 until the end ofthe war,and you never heard of the Einsatz Commandoes?

A No, I never heard of them.

Q You were well acquainted with the Waffen SS,and you probably heard of the higher officers in the Waffen SS, did you not?

A In my troop, in my corps, yes.

Q I am asking you about the entire WaffenSS,did you know most of the higher ranking officers in the Waffen SS ?

A A large part, yes,but they were many and most of them I did not know.

Q So you never even heard of the Einsatz groups?

A No, not before the surrender, I did not hear anything about it.

Q It might be interesting to know that a member of the SS, a private, had heard of them as early as 1941.

A (No answer).

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Q Did you know that an Einsatz Group was made up of at least thirty-five percent members of the Waffen SS?

A No, I did not know that.

Q Iwould like to call your attention to the document, L-180,USA 276, which at page 14 in the English translation shows the total strength of the action group A was made up of Waffen SS 34.4,Security SD, 3.5 Criminal Police, 4.1 and the Gestapp 9 percent. If you had not heard of the Einsatz Commandoes, whomdid you think was carrying on the actions against the socalled Partisans in the East?

A Security Divisions of the Army,and Police Regimen t and Police Battalions.

Q That is exactly that these Einsatz groups were, weren't they?

A I am sorry,but I only know theterms,Security Commission in the Army, Police Regiment,and Police Battalion.

Q All three of them operated together,didn't they?

A Ican not say exactly, not single cases. I donot know the work of these units in the rear areas.

Q Don't you knowfrom May 1941 until May '42 these units in the rear areas made many reports of their activities in the slaughtering of Jews and Partisans?

A No, I did not know that.

Q Didn't youknow those reports were distributed to the higher SS Leaders?

A No, I do not know that.

Q You did not know?

By - DR. KOESSL: May I object to that question as to where these reports went to is not relevant or of any importance after the witness has answered that he does not know anything about it.

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By - MAJOR MURRAY:
& I think I am entitled to ask him.

By - MR TAYLOR: The question is proper if the witness knows whether or not he himself received the reports, or whether or not he knows that the reports were forwarded. I am not sure whether he answered the question or not.

By DR. KOESSL: I can not think of how the witness answered as to where certain reports went to, if he does not know anything about this report.

By MAJOR MURRAY: I am asking him whether or not he knows these people received them.

By - MR TAYLOR: Proceed with the witness.

By MAJOR MURRAY: I think I have no more questions.

BY M. MONERRAY:

Q You have been educated at the Junker School, haven't you?

A Yes.

Q You got there a very complete train on Nazi Ideology and Nazi Ideals, didn't you?

A Yes, I was taught in one part of the education system according to the Party program.

Q You were considered to be the future leader of the SS, weren't you?

A Yes.

Q And to promote an elite group in the SS, is that right?

A Yes.

Q You considered Himmler as your chief of the SS?

A Yes, as Reichsfuehrer.

Q And his ideas and his interpretation of National Socialism were considered by you as the correct interpretation and as the correct rules?

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A Yes

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A Yes.

Q And also the people joining under the military Waffen SS had to have the same conceptions, as you had?

A No. Should I continue?

Q I shall frame my question in a different way in order to avoid any confusion. Your task as officer of the SS was to bring to your own conception of the right way of National Socialism. That was your part, wasn't it?

A Yes.

Q So we can consider the thought and general ideas of Himmler as ideas whichwere followed as much as possible by the Waffen SS formations?

A Yes,what we received in that kind of material.

Q Now my colleague read to you certain excerpts of a speech by Himmler?

A Yes.

Q Now you participated in the Polish campaign in 1939, didn't you?

A Yes.

Q What was the name of your Waffen SS formation?

A Pioneer of Engineer Troops of the SS Reserve Troops.

Q You had been in touch with officers of other formations of the Waffen SS, weren't you?

A Not in this campaign.

Q But at least after this campaign?

A Yes, after the Polish campaign.

Q You met certain number of officers also serving in the Waffen SS?

A Yes.

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Q And probably you exchanged with each other your experiences during this campaign, didn't you?

A Yes.

Q Did any of the officers ever tell you about certain measures carried out by the Waffen SS against the civilian population in Poland?

A No.

Q Now do you think that Himmler, your chief, did make a speech to the officers of the SS, the Leibstandarte SS, when he Adolf Hitler/told them that truth?

A Yes, I believe that, surely.

Q You maintain that never have you heard anything about the cooperation between the Einsatz SS and the Police troops in the Polish campaign?

A Yes, I still maintain it.

Q Very well. NowI would like to read you an excerpt of this speech made in Metz, document PS-1918, USA 304. I will give you the "German" text on it: " Very frequently the member of the Waffen SS thinks about the deportation of this people here." He is talking about the deportation of people in Alsaace and in the Ruhr. "These thoughts came to me today when watching the very difficult work out there performed by the Security Police, supported by your men, who helped them a great deal. Exactly the same thing happened in Poland in weather 40 degrees below zero, wherewe had to haul away thousands, ten thousands, hundred thousands; where we had to have the toughness - you should hear this but also forget it again immediately - to shoot thousands of leading Poles, where we had to have the toughness, otherwise it would have taken revenge on us later." Then, "You will gladly admit, in many cases it is much easier to go into combat with a company than to suppress an obstructive population of low cultural level in some area

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with a company, or to carry out executions, or to haul away people" and so on. No officer you knew told you about this?

A No, I never heard of anything like that.

Q Very well. From what time were you the leader of the Viking Division?

A From October 1944.

Q Who composed this division?

A When I was the leader or before that?

Q Yes?

A When?

By - MR TAYLOR: When he was leader or before that?

BY M. MONERRAY:

Q Yes, when he was the leader.

A Yes, in the Fall of 1944 I received 6,000 men in placement, mostly former air corps personnel. Also officers from Germany that used to live in foreign countries, Hollanders, Norweigians, Danish, and German persons from the southeastern country, but mostly air corps personnel.

Q Was this division originally a division being composed of volunteers from the northern countries?

A The corps of the division was the Regiment Germania, which was taken out of the basic unit Das Reich, and transferred to the division later on. Since that time I did not have anything else to do with this unit.

Q What was your division in France?

A Division Das Reich.

Q When did you leave France?

A I left it the first time after the end of the Western campaign.

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I believe that was in June - the end of June 1940. Then we once again were in France, I believe from December 1940 until March or April 1941. Then we went to the Yugoslavia campaign, and from that time I did not enter France again with that division.

Q Did you meet any officers of the division Das Reich during the year of 1944?

A During my furloughs during 1944 I met one that was the leader or chief of the Division Das Reich, who at that time was in the hospital in Dresden wounded.

Q What time was this?

A That was sofar as I remember in August 1944.

Q Did he tell you about the military activity or operations of his division in France?

A He spoke of the part of the fight he had in France during the invasion, and that at the time when he left the division he was pretty well shot to pieces already.

Q Did he tell you about the military operations of his division in south and central France?

A No.

Q You told us this morning that until the end the Waffen SS were under the Army or Wehrmacht?

A Yes.

Q But you forget, don't you, that after 20 July 1944 Himmler took over the direct command of the Waffen SS, didn't he?

A No.

Q Have you been in Posen during the Polish campaign?

A No. I do not know Posen at all.

M. MONERRAY: I have no further questions.

H0941-0027

BY COLONEL ORLOV:

Q You said that the Waffen SS had been part of the Wehrmacht, or the Army?

A Yes.

Q And that the Waffen SS, in other words, the Waffen SS had to carry out all orders of the OKW, or the German High Command?

A Yes.

Q Do you know of an order issued signed by Keitel, 13 May 1941, concerning special measures in the area of Barbarossa, and the execution of these measures by the units?

A No, I did not know of any such orders.

Q You never read that?

A No. I can remember the contents.

By MR TAYLOR: Did you answer "I can not?"

THE WITNESS: I can. I don't know, of paragraph one of Roman II, but I do know what is under No. 2, otherwise (looking at document)

BY COLONEL ORLOV:

Q How did you carry out this sentence concerning the treatment of suspected persons?

A I was Battalion Commander at the time, and was quite frequently stationed in villages. I can not remember any time when we had to carry out such an order, or such measures since the population mostly was good nature and decent, and we had no difficulties with them whatsoever.

Q In other words, under these circumstances, nobody was shot?

A Not in my organization.

Q Did you also hear the following in this document : The name of this document is "The treatment of captured enemy, political and military com-

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missioners."

By DR. KOESSL: May I ask for the number of the document.

By COLONEL ORLOV: 184 PS, yes.

THE WITNESS: "The treatment of captured enemy political and military commissioners," yes.

BY COLONEL ORLOV:

Q Now do you consider this order as right and decent?

A I do not consider this order as being right.

Q Why?

A These commissioners, and political company commissioners were soldiers of the Red Army, just as well as any others. Secondly, these officers were the guards of the attack, and guards of resistance of the Red Army. Thirdly, the troop or unit would not be permitted to shoot anybody at will of these persons. That is not right. That is against discipline. Fourthly, these commissioners knew more than the individual simple soldiers, and, therefore, we were of the opinion that they had to be handed over for interrogations.

Q Did you explain to the high command of the army that you did not carry out this order?

A No.

Q Do you know concerning your order , 16 September 1941, concerning the action of fighting against Bolshevism and communism Partisans or bandits in the occupied eastern territories?

A I can not remember that.

Q Maybe I can show you this document, that is document 389. It also has another No. R98. I have an English copy. Please translate this sen-

H0941-0029

tence as follows:"In order to suppress those machinations from the beginning, right on the first occasion, the strongest means have to be employed to ensure the authority of the occupation forces and to prevent further spreading. Here also has to be considered that a human life, in those countries affected, often doesn't mean anything,and a deterrent effect can only be achieved by extraordinary strength. As atonement for the life of one German soldier a death-penalty for 50-100 communists must be generally considered as proper."?

A No, I do not know that.

Q Were you not only under the high command of the army,but also under Himmler,the chief of the SS?

A We were technically only under the army, only the army.

Q In all connections?

A Insofar as personnel orders were concerned. It was Himmler who could make the orders,and that took care of our settlement of men and material; in this case we were not under the army.

By COLONEL ORLOV: That is all.

By MR TAYLOR: Has the defense counsel any questions?

BY DR. KOESSL:

Q How far down withinthe units were secret matters distributed, matters with secret classification?

A That is a question I cannot answer on now.

Q Did the company commander receive any secret orders?

A In the battalion we did receive secret orders,but in companies they probably did not receive anything in the way of secret written orders.

Q Do youknow how far the "chef" of top secret matters were distributed downthrough the chain of commands ?

H0941 - 0030

A I know. I believe if I remember correctly they were only distributed through the Commanding General, and his chiefs. I do not think it went down any further.

Q Your trustworthiness concerning the fact that you did not know anything about Einsatz commando was doubt . What area compromise about an army group is there?

A I have answered that question.

Q As far as you know how many army groups were there in Russia?

A I do not know.

Q What army groups were you in, or a member of?

A First with Group Hoeppner. Later on in the area of ~~Starya Russa~~ Karkov I don't know, and later on with I believe the Army Group Mannstein.

Q Do you know how many groups Nord?

A What was that, in the areas of Starya Russa.

Q That was part of army group Nord?

A I only know of my division and my superior unit or group; higher or above our division I would not know. I have not any information.

Q Do you have any idea of the size of army group, if I told you that at first there were only three army groups in all in Russia, and later on only five?

A If I had a map I could divide it.

Q With that how long would you say the front line of an army group was?

A Between four to eight-hundred kilometers.

Q The Prosecution mentioned Einsatz Commando A of the SD was responsible for the entire area of the army corps Nord. I also can tell you that this entire Einsatz Group A of the SD had about one-thousand

men

H0941-0031

men. If the Waffen SS strength of that organization was about thirty-five per cent than there must have been around 330 men. Can one speak of a large percentage of the Waffen SS in these Einsatz Commandos?

A No, that is virtually nothing.

Q The Prosecution evidently mistook the SD Einsatz Commandos for the Security Divisions of the army and the Police Regiment.

By - M. MONERRAY: I think it is not up to the defense counsel to make an argument about the prosecution. He is only to put questions on re-direct examination to the witness.

By - MR TAYLOR: Counsel's objection is sustained, and suggest that the defense counsel ask the questions of the witness, and let him answer. It may be that your reading and explaining matters are preliminary to your question, but I think it would be best to just ask the witness the question rather than reading from the document.

BY DR. KOESSL:

Q Were the Security Divisions of the army the same as the Police battalion?

A No, it was one part of the army, and one part was Police.

Q Did you ever hear the expression "Furor Teutonicus."?

A Some old Roman must have suggested that in history.

MR. TAYLOR: Could I interfere with the questioning by counsel. It appears that most of these matters are taken from history, and do not come within the rule of material evidence for the defense. I do hope we finish with this witness tonight, and he would not have to come back in the morning.

By - DR. KOESSL: I also hope that.

H0941 - 0032

BY DR. KOESSL:

Q Can this terror that Himmler spoke about that people had of the Waffen SS be compared with the terror with the Romans out of the "Furor Teutonicus."?

MR. TAYLOR: I think the question is altogether outside the record, and it is immaterial. I want you to get in everything you would like but I think we are wasting time and not building up any defense by that question.

BY DR. KOESSL:

Q Would you say that Himmler in his speech that the terror that the enemy had of it -- had of the Waffen SS only helped the Waffen SS in its battles?

A Yes.

Q Do you believe that the Roehm Putsch was attempted by the SS, by the SA, or by Roehm?

A I do not know anything. I just know what certain parties said at that time. Otherwise, I know nothing.

By MR. TAYLOR: Does counsel have any further material questions on redirect examination.

By DR. KOESSL: Two small questions.

By MR. TAYLOR: Very well.

BY DR. KOESSL:

Q The prosecution spoke of the speeches of your friend Himmler. Did you have any closer relations to Himmler as the SS Leader, or of similar rank and position?

A I have had no personal relations to Himmler whatsoever. I only saw him at that time when I was at his field headquarters. I personally otherwise would not know him.

H0941-0033

Q Did you want to say, by saying that the SS saw the reason for this war, did you want to say only that they, due to the German propaganda, thought that this war was being forced upon Germany, or, did you want to say that the SS as a unit loved the war?

A The Waffen SS did not want or like the war as a war since the tales or stories of our fathers and of those that had participated in the first World War. We knew it was terrible. The Waffen SS was certain that this war had been forced upon us, and it carried out that fight accordingly.

By - MR. TAYLOR: Has counsel any more questions?

By - DR. KOESSL: The last question.

BY DR. KOESSL:

Q Was the opinion of the Waffen SS or was it the picture which the Waffen SS saw in the National Socialist Party, that it contained anything that might be regarded as a crime against humanity, or any other crime?

A No.

By DR. KOESSL: Thank you.

By - MR. TAYLOR: Is that all with this witness.

By DR. KOESSL: I have no further questions.

By MR. TAYLOR: The witness will be excused. The Commission will Adjourn until ten o'clock tomorrow morning.

-- --

(The Commission adjourned until 14 June 1946, at 1000 hours)

COMM A
3-[illegible]20
Gallagher
13 June

H0941-0034

The foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the testimony of KARL ULLRICH, taken on June

Mabel A Lesser
Reporter (pp pp)

Charles J Gallagher
Reporter (pp pp)

Reporter (pp pp)

CERTIFIED TO:

Geo Taylor
Commissioner

Commissioner

H0941-0035

OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF TESTIMONY FOR THE DEFENSE OF ORGANIZATIONS, TAKEN BEFORE A COMMISSION APPOINTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 4 OF THE ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL DATED 13 MARCH 1946.

13 June 1946

COMMISSIONER:

George R. Taylor

WAFFEN-SS

(The Commission convened at 1400 hours)

KARL ULLRICH, a witness, took the stand and testified as follows :

BY MR. TAYLOR:

Q. What is your name ?

A. Karl Ullrich.

Q. Will you raise your right hand and repeat after me the following oath: I swear by God, the Almighty and Omniscient, that I will speak the pure truth and will withhold and add nothing.

(The witness repeated the oath.)

BY MR. TAYLOR: You may sit down.

DR. KOESSL: The witness, Karl Ullrich, can make statements concerning the front units of the Waffen-SS, that they fought within the Army and that they received the same orders as the units of the Army. Due to his long front duty with different groups of the Waffen-SS in posts from company commander to division commander, he is a very good witness to prove that the Waffen-SS did not use any criminal combat methods and that they regarded the general rights and principles of war. He also can state that the front line troops did not know of the extermination of lives.

M. MONNERAY: I think it would be advisable if defense counsel, in indicating the matters to be dealt with by the testimony of the witness, would not give to the witness the points which he would like to have confirmed by the witness but only give the general shape and general frame of the testimony and interrogation.

DR. KOESSL: Maybe I understood the orders of the Court wrong. We are requested to tell the Court before we start what we will ask the witness.

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BY MR. TAYLOR: The Court's order is that the Counsel prepare and announce to the Court what he intends to prove by the witness but not the material facts or the substance of what he wants the witness to testify to, that is true, but since it has been stated there is nothing we can do about it now so we will proceed with the examination of the witness.

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY DR. KOESSL:

Q. Witness, when did you enter the Reserve Troops and with what units did you serve until the beginning of the war ?

A. On the 8th of January 1934 I entered the Reserve Troops after previously having visited the SS Junkerschool at Braunschweig and I served from then on in the Engineer Troops of the SS as platoon and company commander.

Q. Under whom was your unit during the occupation of Austria, the Sudetenland and Prague ?

A. My battalion was in all three campaigns, under the Army.

Q. Did you bring a lot of loot, (captured material) home from these campaigns ?

A. We did not bring any captured equipment or loot home. That was especially controlled at the Border Control where every single one of our vehicles was checked for non-military items.

Q. With what unit and with what rank did you come to the front ?

A. I entered the Polish campaign with the reserve toops of an engineer battalion, as company commander.

Q. Did a reserve group of the engineer troops stay at home ?

A. No, only a small group remained at our Caserne or billets.

Q. Did you have no reserve troops with your own troops ?

A. The replacement was only activated during the war.

Q. What campaigns did you participate in ?

A. In 1939 I was in the Polish Campaign; 1940 the French Campaign; 1941 the Yugoslav Campaign; 1941-1942 in the Russian Campaign; 1942 in the Occupation of Southern France, and from then on until the end in the Eastern Campaign.

H0941 - 0037

Q. Could you explain this list a little better, in order to show the Court whether or not you had been active on many fronts ?

A. I have here with me my Pay Book ("Sold Buch") in which is an affidavit which states all the battles and campaigns I participated in.

DR. KOESSL: I do not know whether the Court is interested in seeing this. All I want to state is that the witness has a very good background concerning his service in the SS.

BY MR. TAYLOR: Since I presume it is merely to identify the witness I see no objection to the introduction or non-introduction in the record.

H0941-0038

Q What was your duty at the end of the war.

A At the end of the war I was commander of the SS Armored Division Vicking.

Q Did the Waffen-SS in these campaigns fight as a single unit or in what relation was it to the Army?

A From 1939 until the capitulation we were never used as an individual or independent unit but always were under the Army.

Q Did you have knowledge of any special orders from the SS to you or to your superiors in the Waffen-SS, orders which were different from those of the army, concerning different methods of fighting and also different treatment of civilians or captured enemy men?

A The Waffen-SS was part of the German Ground Forces and were under the orders of the Army , as was every other army unit. Therefore the treatment of allprisoners, wounded, and civilians, was the same as it was throughout the German Army.

Q Was there no difference between the fighting methods of the Waffen-SS and of the Army?

A There was no difference. In the SS was the Elite and the SS consisted mainly of volunteers, men who volunteered to participate in this fight in an important position.

Q Could you tell us why many supposed there were different methods of fighting used by the Waffen-SS?

A As I stated before, these men in the Waffen-SS were largely volunteers and men that streamed into the Waffen-SS the beginning of the war. Also when we entered combat, the officers and non-commissioned officers who had been together in peacetime entered combat together. For a time the Waffen-SS was not enlarged and we therefore were a closed unit - a closed group and a cooperative group. Every member of the Waffen-SS believed in the necessity of this war which we all thought was forced upon us. Therefore all members of the Waffen-SS saw in this job the fulfillment of their duty even though we knew quite often that our own lives had to be given.

Q Could it be that this fighting spirit of the SS could have been the cause of mistreatment or different treatment of civilians or enemy prisoners of war?

H0941 - 0039

A I know of no such cases. All prisoners and enemy wounded that fell into our hands were treated as human beings, according to the laws of the Geneva Convention which were known generally.

Q Do you mean to say that no mistreatments whatsoever took place?

A I don't want to say that. No, I want to say that due to the long war and the hardships, some mistreatments or not correct treatment might have occurred. But whenever such a thing became known, these cases were taken care of by a General Court Martial.

Q Do you know of any orders against humanitarianism and do you know of any incidents?

A I do not know of any such incidents against human decency and against human rights but I would suppose that such things did happen at times during this long war. However, whenever these cases became known they were dealt with by Courts Martial.

Q Did you hand over any prisoners of war to the SD?

A No. The prisoners were first delivered to Ic, that is our interrogation units with the division, and after that they were sent depending upon orders from the army headquarters, to the collection points in the rear by our military police.

Q Did you of the Waffen-SS cooperate or work together with the SD?

A In the organizations I worked in, as well as in my own divisions, I never heard or saw of any cooperation or work with theSD.

Q Do youknow of the so-called Commissioner Order.

A Yes, the Commissioner Order became known to us shortly before the start of the Eastern Campaign but it practically was never carried out. When we received our prisoners they usually had no rank designation whatsoever and it was impssible to judge a commissioner from the other prisoners. Also we thought it was impossible to give troops the right to shoot certain prisoners ofwar without any trial or without any interrogation whatsoever. We thought it to be against human rights and also against all disciplinary ideas of the army.

Q How was the relation of the troops, that is the battle troops, with the civilian population as far as such a relation existed?

H0941 - 0040

A The population usually got scared when they heard the name SS but they changed very fast since most of our men were decent fellows and they became known to the population rather fast.

Q Why do youthink the population got scared when they heard the term SS?

A As far as I know I would say a huge scare campaign or propaganda was directed against us and we of the Waffen-SS did not see the point in it. We were not acting as this campaign pictured us acting.

Q You mean to say that the name of the Waffen-SS was made a fearful object by enemy propaganda?

A Yes. We found out from prisoners that their officers had told them that there was no pardon with the Waffen-SS. We did not have any orders like that and that was purely enemy propaganda.

H0941-0041

Q Did the Waffen-SS without any reason destroy villages or kill civilian population?

A Without war necessity no destructions were made and no civilians were wounded or killed. In fights for villages, of course, part of them were destroyed at times and civilians, that is the population, were hurt and killed. However, whenever possible we tried to clear these villages if they were within the battle area and transport the civilians to the rear.

Q Was this civilian population taken to Germany as slave labor or how far did you take these civilians back?

A The civilians were only transported out of the immediate area of fighting, that is between 3 and 15 kilometers.

Q Were you used with troops to fight partisans?

A The divisions and corps which I participated in or was a member of never were used for anti-Partisan warfare.

Q Did you come in any connection with partisans?

A There were no partisans on the front and whenever we were for a short while behind the lines then no partisans were apt to fight us since we were in massed formation.

Q Did no single attacks happen either?

A The only attacks on us were those upon our replacement units coming up from the rear and I personally came into closer touch during a retreat of 1944 with a single case -- one of our battalion officers and his staff were attacked -- but that was only a single case.

Q Had you heard that anti-partisan activity of the army was only a camouflage against the destruction of certain parts of the population?

A As far as we of the front line units knew of some of these anti-partisan activities of battles in the rear we always considered a military necessity. In the year 1943, I believe it was, I personally met at the Field Headquarters of the Reichs Fuehrer, the Chief of the anti-partisan troops and there I was shown on a huge map of Europe what large areas were being eliminated by partisan troops and how Security Divisions and Guard Units such as Police Regiments were used in those areas for protection;

Q What were you told in that office or in that section concerning

H0941-0042

the anti-partisan battle?

A I was told that the battle was necessary in order to keep the replacement road open to keep replacements coming.

Q How come you came to this office even though you didn't have anything to do with the anti-partisan battle?

A I was on furlough and I only visited this headquarters because I wanted to visit an old friend from peacetime who was chief of Section 1 A in this anti-partisan headquarters.

Q You also were for a while in an armored division Totenkopf, or Death Head?

A Yes.

Q Did you ever see any duty in a concentration camp or did you ever visit one?

A I was transferred to the Totenkopf or Death Head Division in 1941 after the Yugo Slav Campaign and at that time the Division had nothing to do any more with concentration camps. I personally never did visit a concentration camp.

Q Did you personally never come into any connection with concentration camp inmates? Did you never see anything of them?

A I saw inmates in 1935 and 1936 and 1942. In 1935-1936 near Dachau which worked outside of the camp and in 1942in Bavarian Alps during a furlough.

Q Did you not ask these inmates concerning their life -- concerning their activities?

A I attempted to ask an inmate in 1942 why he was in a concentration camp but he just told me he wasn't allowed to give me any information.

Q Did you as an SS Leader not have the power to give him an order, or at least to give one of the guards the order that he should answer you?

A They were guard units with whom we did not have any connection, we of the front line units. I also asked the leader of this guard unit and he too refused to give me any answer.

Q Were you in uniform at the time you asked him, with all your decorations and so on?

A Yes, I was in the uniform of a Sturmbannfuehrer, wearing the

H0941-0043

Ritterkreuz.

Q Did you never hear anything of the extermination camps, especially the murder of Jews in these extermination camps?

A We did not hear or know anything of extermination camps and extermination of Jews. We were out on the front all the time and our leaders and our men did not have any information.

Q Did not any SS men connected with guard units of these concentration and extermination camps tell you of any of the things that were happening at the home front?

A The men that came to us as replacements came to us as men and we did not ask them about their past experiences and what they had seen. We were not too interested in what was going on back there.

Q What did you hear during the war of the so-called Einsatzkommandos or command groups of the SD and the Security Police?

H0941-0044

A Of course we knew and we heard that there were police and security units away in the rear. That of course we knew was a necessity. What they actually did we did not know and we did not have any information concerning them.

Q The Prosecution presented a document showing that also units or men of the Waffen-SS were used in such an Einsatzkommando or Special Task Force. Did you, even as Division Commander, not hear of anything concerning these transfers or use of men?

A Firstly, no men were ever transferred out of those units where I served for such a reason and secondly I never heard of any such thing.

Q Did you meet Himmler or get together with Himmler at all during the war?

A Yes. I got together with Himmler in the winter of 1941. In 1942 Himmler visited our Death Head Division. In 1942 I visited his Field Headquarters; in 1943 he came to us in Karkhov and in July of 1944 I once again visited him in his Field Headquarters.

Q Did Himmler during his visit of the Division or during your visit to him, give you any orders, that is battle orders?

A No. He could not give us any battle orders since we were a part of the Army and received their orders.

Q Did Himmler have no order power at all?

A Yes, in personal relations.

Q What was the reason of your visit to Himmler?

A In 1941-1942, that is in the winter, and in 1943, Himmler only visited us for his own personal orientation. In 1942 I went over to Himmler's field headquarters on my way to a furlough since it was much easier to go through this field headquarters and in July 1944 I was received by Hitler personally for the presentation of the Eichenlaub to the Ritterkreuz.

Q Were you, in other words, during the entire war in front units without any interruption?

A With the exception of furloughs I was with front divisions and corps of the Waffen-SS.

H0941-0045

DR. KOESSL: I have no further questions.

CROSS-EXAMINATION

BY MAJOR MURRAY:

Q What is your age, please?

A I am 35. I will become 36 the 1st of December.

Q You became a member of the SS in January of 1934, is that right?

A Yes, I became a member of the Reserve Troops.

Q What do you mean by the Reserve Troops?

A The name of it at the time, the name of the unit I entered, was 1st Battalion, Political Readiness Unit, Munich.

Q Were you a member of the Nazi Party?

A Yes.

Q When did you join the Nazi Party?

A In 1931.

Q You of course joined both the Nazi Party and the SS voluntarily, did you not?

A Yes.

Q In your experience when did you actually become a member of the Waffen-SS?

A I don't know when the name Waffen-SS was first used.

Q In your experience in the Waffen-SS I think you told us that practically everyone in it had volunteered?

A Before the war, yes.

Q Even during the war and up to the end, practically all the members of the Waffen-SS, hadn't they volunteered for this Elite organization?

A I know that since 1943 drafted men were entered in the SS.

Q The number of drafted men was very small was it not?

A I never had anything to do with this reinforcement question. Whether these men were volunteers or drafted we didn't care, aslong as they came.

Q In any event those men who served with you and under you in the Waffen-SS did so willingly and were not attempting to transfer out of the

H0941 - 0046

Waffen-SS were they?

A There were deserters that did not want to serve with us.

Q But you didn't have many deserters in the Waffen-SS did you?

A No.

Q So that everyone who served with you, except a few deserters, were doing so voluntarily and willingly, were they not?

A The war duty was a necessity for Germany. Whether they wanted to or not they had to stay.

Q Will you answer my question -- I think you can answer it yes or no.

A May I request that the question be repeated.

Q So that everyone who served with you, except a few deserters, were doing so voluntarily and willingly, were they not?

A I cannot answer that question.

Q You have told us that you are an old time member of the Waffen-SS and you are telling the Commission that you know all about it and yet you tell me you can't answer that question ?

H0941 - 0047

A During the war I did not find out the answer to that question. That was outside my information.

Q There were a lot of things you did not find out during the war, weren't there ?

A That is what I needed, to fight, and found out.

Q You told us that all the SS men considered that the war was absolutely necessary. Did I understand you correctly ?

A Yes.

Q And from what day had all the SS men considered that this war was absolutely necessary ?

A Since the beginning of the war.

Q By that do you mean since September 1939 ?

A Yes.

Q You had been active in the SS from 1934 on. Had it been part of your duties to educate members of the SS in the political philosophy that the war was absolutely necessary ?-

A No.

Q Actually that was done in the SS was it not, if not by you by someone else ?

A We were taught that we had to be strong in order not to be attacked.

Q Why was it you considered the attack on Poland absolutely necessary ?

A We hoped until that date that we went over the border that that war could be prevented even though according to our newspapers and reports we received that Germans by the Poles were being manhandled and murdered.

Q Why did you consider the attack on Czechoslovakia absolutely necessary ?

A The occupation of Czechoslovakia in our opinion was an occupation which had been decreed upon by the chiefs of the States of Czechoslovakia and Germany.

Q I shall pass into another subject. You told us I believe that when the SS arrived in any particular locality that the population were very much afraid, is that right ?-

A Yes.

Q And that was because of the reputation of the SS as a terror organization, wasn't it ?

HO941 - 0048

A We never terrorized. I always say that it was the propaganda that described us as bad even though we were not.

Q I do not mean to say that the SS ever terrorized. I merely asked you if that was not the reputation that the SS had, perhaps due to the propaganda, but nevertheless they had that reputation ?

DR. KOESSL : May I object. By this means of questioning it seems to me that the prosecution only wants an opinion of the witness. That could be found out actually by what the witness said already.

MR. TAYLOR : I think the question is proper if the witness is able to answer from his own knowledge and information he has had. He has testified that the people were scared in the community in which they moved in, and after they were there awhile they would change their mind. I believe that is in the record on direct examination of the witness.

Will you please read the last question (Whereupon the last question was read to the witness).

A Yes.

Q The SS also had a reputation as being the terror organization within

H0941-0049

H0941 – 0050

Germany itself, did it not?

A I can not answer that.

Q Do you know, Witness, that the SS was largely responsible for the Roehm purge in 1934?

A At the time of the Roehm Purge I was a member of the political disposition squad, and the entire battalion was on furlough at the time. We always returned to Munich as a unit, and arrived in Munich on the 1st of July when the entire thing was over, so I personally had nothing to do with the Roehm Putsch.

Q I do not intend to indicate that you had anything to do with it. I merely asked you if you did not know it was carried out by the SS?

A I can not answer that question.

Q You were very close to Himmler, were you not? You met him a number of times?

A Yes.

Q Are you familiar with the Himmler book "The SS as an anti-Bolshevist Fighting Organization", and published in 1936?

A I do remember the title, and I am almost certain I read it, but I do not say, if I might suggest, today that I remember what it was all about.

Q The reason I asked that, Himmler in 1936 was able to answer the last two questins which you have been unable to answer. In order to refresh your recollection I would like to read on page 29 of the book Himmler's statement. I am quoting this: "I know that there are many people in Germany who become sick whenever they see these black coats. We understand the reason for this and do not expect we shall be loved by the many." Does not that sound as if Himmler himself at least thought that the SS had the reputation through Germany as being a terror organization in 1936?

Q Very well. When you met Himmler in 1943, was that at Karkov?

A I personally did not see him in 1943 at his headquarters.

Q Did you attend, or did you hear about the contents of a speech by your friend Himmler?

A What speech of Himmler's?

Q Just a minute. I shall give you the date. At Karkov in April 1943?

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A I, at that time, personally was at the front with my battalion, and I only saw Himmler when he visited the Regimen OP, and for thatreason was ordered back to the Regiment OP, and only said "Hello" to him.

Q You said that this bad reputation of the SS in Eastern territories was due to enemy propaganda, is that correct? Did you consider at that time, or do you now consider Himmler an enemy propagandist ?

A No.

Q Let me read you what Himmler said on the subject in that speech I quote: "We have only one task to stand firm and carry on the racial struggle without mercy." Then several lines: "I will now say again something which I have already today said to men elsewhere. We will never let the excellent record of dread and terrible reputation which preceded us in battle for Krakov fade, but will constantly add a new meaning to it. They can call us what they like in the world, the main thing is that we are the eternally loyal, obedient, steadfast and unconquerable fighting men of the Germanic people and of the Fuehrer, the SS. of the Germanic Reich." For the record that is document No. 1919-PS, and the basis of those two statements of your friend Himmler. Would you say that the reputation of SS both inGermany and in occupied territories as being a terror organization was completely justified?

A No. I think this phraseology already stated and we take the meaning that we want out to do our duty towin this war, and I can not see what connection it could have, or could be with criminal activities. May I ask a question?

Q No, I am asking the questions. When Himmler said, "The dread and terrible reputation which precedes us in battles," does that sound like anything to do with terror organizations?

A That might sound like it.

Q It does sound like it, doesn't it?

A Yes.

Q You told us that the SS man was an "elite" organization. What do you mean by that?

A First of all I mean by that by saying that the SS was organized in the beginning with men who had to meet a certain physical classification,

H0941-0052

and that theyalso were both in ideals and their wishes good Germans.

Q Did youneed an elite organization to guard the concentration camps?

A My units and the reserve units would never guard any concentration camps.

Q I am asking you if you needed an elite organization to guard concentration camps?

A Yes.

Q And did you need an elite organization to run the murder factories at Auschwitz and other concentration camps?

A No, no elite needed there for that.

Q There were SS men who performed the tasks, were there not?

A I read concerning this in the papers now.

H0941-0053

Q You told us that you knew of the Einsatz Commado troops, when did you first hear of these?

A I heard of the SD and the Police, but of the Einsatz commandoes of which the States Attorney is speaking, I never heard of them during the war.

BY MR. TAYLOR: The Commission will recess for ten minutes.

(A recess was taken at 1530 hours. The Commission reconvened at 1540 hours.)

BY MAJOR MURRAY:

Q Before the recess, I asked you about the Einsatz groups. As I remember it you said that you had not heard of them , is that correct?

A No.

Q You were in the territory of Poland and Russia, and the East, off and on from 1941 until the end of the war, and you never heard of the Einsatz Commandoes?

A No, I never heard of them.

Q You were well acquainted with the Waffen SS, and you probably heard of the higher offices in the Waffen SS, did you not?

A In my troop, in my corps, yes.

Q I am asking you about the entire Waffen SS, did you know most of the higher ranking officers in the Waffen SS?

A A large part, yes, bu t they were many and most of them I did not know.

Q Do you never even heard of the Einsatz groups?

A No, not before the surrender, I did not hear anything about it.

Q It might be interesting to know that a member of the SS, a private, had heard of them as early as 1941.

A (No answer).

Q Did you know that an Einsatz Group was made up of at least thirty-five per cent members of the Waffen SS?

A No, I did not know that.

Q I would like to call your attention to the document, L-180, USA 276, which at page 14 in the English translation shows the total strength of the action group A was made up of Waffen SS 34.4, Security SD, 3.5 Criminal Police, 4.1 and the Gestapo 9 per cent. If you had not heard of the Einsatz

H0941-0054

Commandoes, whom did you think was carrying on the actions against the so called Partisans in the E st?

A Security Divisions of the Army, and Police Regiment and Police Battalions.

Q That is exactly what these Einsatz groups were, weren't they?

A I am sorry, but I only know the terms, Security Commission in the Army, Police Regiment, and Police Battalion.

Q All three of them operated together, didn't they?

A I can not say exactly, not single cases. I do not know the work of these units in the rear areas.

Q Don't you know from May 1941 until May '42 these untis inthe rear areas made many reports of their activities in the slaughtering of Jews and Partisans?

A No, I did not know that.

Q Didn't you know those reports were distributed to the higher SS leaders?

A No, I did not know that.

A No, I did not know that.

Q You did not know ?

BY DR. KOESL: May I object to that question as to where these reports went to is not relevant or of any importance after the witbess has answered that he does not know anything about it.

BY MAJOR MURRAY:

I think I am entitled to ask him.

BY MR. TAYLOR: The question is proper if the witness knows whether or not he himself received the reports, or whether or not he knows that the reports were forwarded. I am not sure whether he answered the question or not.

BY DR. KOESSL: I cannot think of how the witness answered as to where certain reports went to, if he does not know anything about this report.

BY MAJOR MURRAY: I am asking him whether or not he knows these people received them.

BY MR. TAYLOR: Proceed with the witness.

BY MAJOR MURRAY: I think I have no more questions.

BY M. MONNERRAY:

Q You have been educated at the Junker School, haven't you?

H0941-0055

A Yes.

Q You got there a very complete train on Nazi Ideology and Nazi ideals, didn't you?

A Yes, I was taught in one part of the education system according to the Party program.

Q You were considered to be the future leader of the SS, weren't you?

A Yes.

Q And to promote an elite group in the SS, is that right?

A Yes.

Q You considered Himmler as your chief of the SS?

A Yes, as Reichsfuehrer.

Q And his ideas and his interpretation of National Socialism were considered by you as the correct interpretation and as the correct rules?

A Yes.

H0941-0056

A. Yes.

Q. And also the people joining under the military Waffen SS had to have the same conceptions, as you had?

A. No. Should I continue.

Q. I shall frame my question in a different way in order to avoid any confusion. Your task as officer of the SS was to bring to your own conception of the right way of National Socialism. That was your part, wasn't it?

A. Yes.

Q. So we can consider the thought and general ideas of Himmler as ideas which were followed as much as possible by the Waffen SS formations?

A. Yes, what we received in that kind of material.

Q. Now my colleague read to youcertain excerpts of a speech by Himmler?

A. Yes.

Q. Now you participated in the Polish campaign in 1939, didn't you?

A. Yes.

A. Yes.

Q. What was the name of your Waffen SS.formation?

A. Pioneer of Engineer Troops of the SS Reserve Troops.

Q. You had been in touch with officers of other formations of the Waffen SS, weren't you?

A. Not in this campaign.

Q. But at least after this campaign?

A. Yes, after the Polish campaign.

Q. You met certain number of officers also serving in the Waffen SS?

A. Yes.

Q. And probably you exchanged with each other your experiences during this campaign, didn't you.

A. Yes.

Q. Did anh of the officers ever tell you about certain measures carried out by the Waffen SS againstt the civilian population in Poland?

H0941-0057

A. No.

Q. Now do you think that Himmler, your chief, did make a speech to the officers of the SS, the Leibstandarte SS, Adolf Hitler, when he told them that truth?

A. Yes, I believe that, surely.

Q. You maintain that never have you heard anything about the cooperation between the Einsatz SS and the Police troops in the Polish campaign?

A. Yes, I still maintain it.

Q. Very well. Now, I would like to read you an excerpt of this speech made in Metz, document PS-1918, USA 304. I will give you the "German" text on it: "Very frequently, the members of the Waffen SS thinks about the deportation of this people here". He is talking about the deporation of people in Alsace in the Ruhr. "These thoughts came to me today when watching the very difficult work out there performed by the Security Police, supported by your men, who helped them a great deal. Exactly the same thing happened in Poland, in weather 40 degrees below zero, where we had to haul away thousands, ten thousands, hundred thousands; where we had to have the toughness - you should hear this but also forget it again immediately - to shoot thousands of leading Poles, where we had to have the toughness, otherwise it would have taken revenge on us later". Then, "You will gladly admit, in many cases, it is much easier to go into combat with a company than to suppress an obstructive population of low cultural level in some area with a company, or to carry out executions, or to haul away people" and so on. No officer you know told you about this?

A. No, I never heard of anything like that.

Q. Very well. From what time were you leader of the Viking Division?

A. From October 1944.

Q. Who composed this division?

H0941-0058

A. When I was the leader or before that?

Q. Yes?

A. When?

BY MR. TAYLOR: When he was leader or before that?

BY M. MONNERAY:

Q. Yes, when he was the leader.

A. Yes, in the Fall of 1944 I received 6,000 men in placement, mostly former air corps personnel. Also officers from Germany that used to live in foreign countries, Hollanders, Norwegians, Danish, and German persons from the southeastern country, but mostly air corps personnel.

Q. Was this division originally a division being composed of volunteers from the northern countries?

A. The corps of the division was the Regiment Germania, which was taken out of the basic unit Das Reich, and transferred to the division later on. Since that time I did not have anything else to do with this unit.

Q. What was your division in France?

A. Division Das Reich.

Q. When did you leave France?

A. I left it the first time after the end of the Western campaign. I believe that was in June - the end of June 1940. Then we once again were in France, I believe from December 1940 until March or April 1941. Then we went to the Yugoslavia campaign, and from that time I did not enter France again with that division.

Q. Did you meet any officers of the division Das Reich during the year of 1944?

A. During my furloughs during 1944 I met one that was the leader or chief of the Division Das Reich, who at that time was in the hospital in Dresden, wounded.

Q. What time was this?

A. That was so far as I remember, in August 1944.

Q. Did he tell you about the military activity or operations of his division in France?

A. He spoke of the part of the fight he had in France during the invasion, and that at the time when he left the division, he was pretty well shot to pieces already.

Q. Did he tell you about the military operations of his division in south and central France?

A. No.

Q. You told us this morning that until the end, the Waffen SS were under the Army or Wehrmacht?

A. Yes.

Q. But youforget, don't you, that after 20 July 1944, Himmler took over the direct command of the Waffen SS, didn't he?

A. No.

Q. Have you been in Posen during the Polish campaign.

A. No. I do not know Posen at all.

BY M. MONERRAY: I have no further questions.

H0941-0059

BY COLONEL ORLOV:

Q. You said that the Waffen SS had been part of the Wehrmacht, or the Army ?

A. Yes.

Q. And that the Waffen SS, in other words, the Waffen SS had to carry out all orders of the OKW, or the German High Command ?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you know of an order issued signed by Keitel, 13 May 1941, concerning special measures in the area of Barbarossa, and the execution of these measures by the units ?

A. No, I did not know of any such orders.

Q. You never read that ?

A. No. I can remember the contents.

BY MR. TAYLOR: Did you answer I can not ?

THE WITNESS: I can. I don't know, of paragraph one of Roman II, but I do not know what is under No. 2, otherwise (looking at document)

BY COLONEL ORLOV:

Q. How did you carry out this sentence concerning the treatment of suspected persons ?

A. I was Battalion Commander at the time, and was quite frequently stationed in villages. I can not remember any time when we had to carry out such an order, or such measures since the population mostly was good nature and decent, and we had no difficulties with them whatsoever.

Q. In other words, under these circumstances, nobody was shot ?

A. Not in my organisation.

Q. Did you also hear the following in this document : The name of this document is "The treatment of captured enemy, political and military commissioners."

BY DR. KOESSL: May I ask for the number of the document.

BY COLONEL ORLOV: 184-PS, yes.

THE WITNESS: "The treatment of captured enemy political and military commissioners," yes.

BY COLONEL ORLOV:

Q. Now do you consider this order as right and decent ?

A. I do not consider this order as being right.

H0941-0060

Q. Why ?

A. These commissioners, and political company commissioners were soldiers of the Red Army, just as well as any others. Secondly, these officers were the guards of the attack, and guards of resistance of the Red Army. Thirdly the troop or unit would not be permitted to shoot anybody at will of these persons. That is not right. That is against discipline. Fourthly these commissioners knew more than the individual simple soldiers, and, therefore, we were of the opinion that they had to be handed over for interrogation.

Q. Did you explain to the high command of the army that you did not carry out this order ?

A. No.

Q. Do you know concerning your order, 16 September 1941, concerning the action of fighting against Bolshevism and communism Partisans or bandits in the occupied eastern territories ?

A. I can not remember that.

Q. Maybe I can show you this document, that is document 389. It also has another No. R -98. I have an English copy. Please translate this sentence as follows:"In order to suppress those machinations from the beginning, right on the first occasion, the strongest means have to be employed to ensure the authority of the occupation forces and to prevent further spreading. Here also has to be considered that a human life, in those countries affected, often doesn't mean anything and a deterrent effect can only be achieved by extraordinary strength. As atonement for the life of one German soldier a death-penalty for 50-100 communists must be generally considered as proper." ?

A. No, I do not know that.

Q. Were you not only under the high command of the army, but also under Himmler the chief of the SS ?

A. We were technically only under the army, only the army.

Q. In all connections ?

A. Insofar as personnel orders were concerned. It was Himmler who could make the orders, and that took care of our settlement of men and material; in this case we were not under the army.

H0941-0061

BY COLONEL ORLOV: That is all.

BY MR. TAYLOR: Has the defense counsel any questions ?

BY DR. KOESSL:

Q. How far down within the units were secret matters distributed, matters with secret classification ?

A. That is a question I cannot answer on now.

Q. Did the company commander receive any secret orders ?

A. In the battalion we did receive secret orders, but in companies they probably did not receive anything in the way of secret written orders.

Q. Do you know how far the "Chef" of top secret matters were distributed downthrough the chain of commands ?

A. I know. I believe if I remember correctly they were only distributed through the Commanding General, and his chiefs. I do not think it went down any further.

Q. Your trustworthiness concerning the fact that you did not know anything about Einsatz commando was doubt. What area compromise about an army group is there ?

A. I have answered that question.

Q. As far as you know how many army groups were there in Russia ?

A. I do not know.

Q. What ar,y groups were you in, or a member of ?

A. First with Group Hoeppner. Later on in the area of Karkov I don't know and later on with I believe the Army Group Mannstein.

Q. Do you know how many groups Nord ?

A. What was that, in the areas of Starya Russa.

Q. That was part of army group Nord ?

A. I only know of my division and my superior unit or group; higher or above our division I would not know. I have not any information.

Q. Do you have any idea of the size of army group, if I told you that at first there were only three army groups in all in Russia, and later on only five ?

A. If I had a map I could divide it.

H0941-0062

Q. With that how long would you say the front line of an army group was ?

A. Between four to eight-hundred kilometers.

Q. The Prosecution mentioned Einsatz Commando A of the SD was responsible for the entire area of the army corps Nord. I also can tell you that this entire Einsatz Group A of the SD had about one-thousand

H0941-0063

H0941-0064

men. If the Waffen SS strength of that organization was about thirty-five per cent than there dust have been around 330 men. Can one speak of a large percentage of the Waffen SS in these Einsatz Commandos?

A No, that is virtually nothing.

Q The Prosecution evidently mistook the SD Einsatz Commandoes for the Security Divisions of the army and the Police Regiment.

BY M. MONERRAY: I think it is not up to the defense counsel to make an argument about the prosecution. He is only to put questions on re-direct examination to the witness.

BY MR. TAYLOR: Counsel's objection is sustained, and suggest that the defense counsel ask the questions of the witness, and let him answer. It may be that your reading and explaining matters are preliminary to your question, but I think it would be best to just ask the witness the question rather than reading from the document.

BY DR. KOESSL:

Q Were the Security Divisions of the army the same as the Police battalion?

A No, it was one part of the army, and one part was Police.

Q Did you ever hear the expression "Furor Teutonicus."?

A Some old Roman must have suggested that in history.

MR TAYLOR: Could I interfere with the questioning by counsel. It appears that most of these matters are taken from history, and do not come within the rule of material evidence for the defense. I do hope we finish with this witness tonight, and he would not have to come back in the morning.

BY DR. KEOSSL: I also hope that.

Q Can this terror that Himmler spoke about that people had of the Waffen SS be compared with the terror with the Romans out of the "Furor Teutonicus."?

MR. TAYLOR: I think the question is altogether outside the record, and it is immaterial. I want you to get in everything

H0941-0065

you would like but I think we are wasting time and not building up any defense by that question.

BY DR. KOESSL:

Q Would you say that Himmler in his speech that the terror that the enemy of it -- had of the Waffen SS only helped the Waffen SS in its battles?

A Yes.

Q Do you believe that the Roehm Putsch was attempted by the SS, by the SA, or by Roehm?

A I do not know anything. I just know what certain parties said at that time. Otherwise, I know nothing.

BY MR. TAYLOR: Does counsel have any further material questions on redirect examination.

BY DR. KOESSL: Two small questions.

BY MR. TAYLOR: Very well.

BY DR. KOESSL:

Q The prosecution spoke of the speeches of your friend Himmler. Did you have any closer relations to Himmler as the SS Leader, or of similar rank and position?

A I have had no personal relations to Himmler whatsoever. I only saw him at that time when I was at his field headquarters. I personally otherwise would not know him.

Q Did you want to say, by saying that the SS saw the reason for this war, did you want to say only that they, due to the German propaganda, thought that this war was being forced upon Germany, or, did you want to say that the SS as a unit loved the war?

A The Waffen SS did not want or like the war as a war since the tales or stories of our fathers and of those that had participated in the first World War. We knew it was terrible. The Waffen SS was certain that this war had been forced upon us, and it carried out that fight accordingly.

BY MR. TAYLOR: Has counsel any more questions?

BY DR. KOESSL: The last question.

H0941-0066

BY DR. KOESSL:

Q Was the opinion of the Waffen SS or was it the picture which the Waffen SS saw in the National Socialist Party, that it contained anything that might be regarded as a crime against humanity, or any other crime?

A No.

BY DR. KOESSL: Thank you.

BY MR. TAYLOR: Is that all with this witness.

BY DR. KOESSL: I have no further questions.

BY ME. TAYLOR: The witness will be excused. The Commission will adjourn until ten o'clock tomorrow morning.

(The Commission adjourned until 14 June 1946, at 1000 hours)

The foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the testimony of KARL ULLRICH, taken on June 13th.

Mabel A. Lesser
Reporter

Charles J. Gallagher

CERTIFIED TO:

George Taylor
Commissioner